(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in negative, in what manner Government propose to protect the rights of adopted child in the country of their adoptee parents within the existing laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no statutory enactment in India providing for adoption of a child by foreign parents for laying down the procedure which must be followed in such a case. Resort is therefore taken to the provisions of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 for the purposes of facilitating such adoption. The Supreme Court in Laxmi Kant Pandey's case (A.I.R. 1984 S.C. 469) has, after taking into consideration this situation, laid down the normative and procedural safeguards which *inter-alia* provides for adoption of children only through recognised voluntary agencies in India and abroad. In enlisting these agencies, the Government is guided by the recommendations of the State Governments and our diplomatic missions in the foreign countries in the *bonafides* of these agencies. Thus sufficient safeguards are available to protect the rights of the adopted child in the country of their adoptee parents.

Conference of Passport Officers

3105. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Conference of Passport Officers was held in Delhi during the month of January, 1988;

(b) what were the recommendations made thereat especially regarding making easy particularly the procedure of procurement of a passport by general public;

(c) whether the recommendations were sent to Government for necessary action thereon; if so, when;

(d) what was the decision taken by Government on each of the recommendations made at the Conference; and

(e) by when these recommendations are likely to be implemented and steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The All India Passport Officers' Conference was held in Delhi from 14 to 16 January, 1988.

(b) The main recommendations of the Conference with regard to simplifying the procedure were as under:

(1) Computerisation would be speeded up in 10 more Passport Offices;

(2) Facilitation counters would be provided in all Passport Offices to help applicants;

(3) The passport application form would be simplified;

(4) Prompt supply of application forms to genuine applicants would be ensured at counters and by post;

(5) Distribution of such forms through Post Offices;

(6) Applications would be checked for complete entries and supporting documents at the time of their receipt in order to avoid subsequent correspondence and delays;

(c) Yes, Sir. The recommendations of the Conference were sent to the Government on 12-2-88.

(d) (1) Reminders to be sent by Passport Officers to concerned verifying authorities in cases of delay beyond six weeks;

(2) Cases of delay beyond three months to be taken up with concerned State Governments through this Ministry and the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(3) To improve the quality of the Passport booklet to make it tamper-proof;

(4) To improve the computer system with a view to expedite processing and to provide prompt status information to applicants at inquiry counters in computerised Passport Offices;

(5) Prescribed procedure in lost/damaged passport cases to be streamlined with the help of computer check by creating a 'Lost Passport Cell' in Regional Passport Office, Delhi;

(6) To simplify the various passport application forms in consultation with the concerned authorities;

(7) To supply application form to genuine applicants at the counter within a reasonable time and by post within 2 days of receipt of requests with Postal Orders for the cost of forms plus self-addressed stamped envelopes;

(8) To re-start the supply of passport application forms through Post Offices in consultation with the Department of Posts to which the latter have agreed in principle;

(9) To take prompt action on complaints regarding delays in issue of passports with computer aided checks;

(e) Instructions have already been issued to implement the decisions taken by the Government straightway and in consultation with the concerned authorities wherever necessary.

English version of the Constitution of India

3106. SHRI K. MOHANAN:
SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the copies of the Constitution of India, English version, are out of print and are not available in the market;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision not to print the English version of the Constitution; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir. More than 12,000 copies of English version of the Constitution of India (as modified up to the 15th August, 1983) together with a Supplement thereto containing the Constitution (46th to 56th Amendment) Acts and the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) First and Second Amendment Orders, 1985 are available for sale to the public with the Office of the Controller of Publications, Delhi.

(b) No such decision has been taken.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of the Prime Minister of Italy to India

3107. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister of Italy visited India sometime during the month of January, 1988;

(b) if so, what was the purpose of his visit;

(c) what are the results of the conversations held with him; and

(d) how far the results are in the interest of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister of Italy visited India from January, 8 to 10, 1988.